

I writing to express my deepest concern about the proposed elimination of the African-American Affairs Commission and to ask that it be re-considered. I am one of the professors from Southern Connecticut State University whom Dr. Sandstrom mentions in his letter. For the past several months, at the initiative of the AAAC, my colleagues (Dr. Abugri, Dr. Emenyonu and Dr. Gebremariam) together with Dr Sandstrom and several others have been trooping to Hartford to find ways to realize the objectives of the CT-Africa Trade Law. The hours donated by all of us were made possible under the very capable leadership of the AAAC under Glenn. It should be mentioned that although the DECD is the department agency responsible for seeing to the implementation of the contents of that law, the DECD, because of lack of funds, admits it is incapable of doing so; it is the AAAC which has been spearheading the effort. Let this not be a wasted effort because in the long-run this is very important for CT.

I am afraid that in looking for solutions to our budgetary woes, we may be acting in a way which may make us "penny wise and pound foolish". I am asking that other avenues be found to plug the whole in the budget and the AAAC be left alone to do all the wonderful work it is doing for our beautiful state. Thank you very much.

Samuel K. Andoh Ph.D.

Professor of Economics

SCSU, New Haven, CT



Testimony of Laurie Julian

Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission

Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan  
December 9, 2009

Senator Toni Harp, Representative John Geragosian, and members of the Committee, my name is Laurie Julian, Legislative Chair of the Asian Pacific American Affairs Coalition of Connecticut. The Asian Pacific American Coalition is a non-partisan group of concerned citizens who are leaders in their respective communities, volunteering their time and resources to advocate on behalf of Connecticut's ethnically diverse and rapidly growing Asian Pacific Americans.<sup>1</sup>

First of all, we thank you for your support in the passage of P.A. 08-166, An Act Establishing an Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. After several delays, the legislation took effect July 1, 2009. We also thank you for your continued support in minimally funding the commission for FY '10 and FY '11, so the commission can finally begin its crucial work on behalf of hundreds of thousands of citizens in this state.

Governor Rell has recommended that all the legislative commissions be eliminated. We urge you to keep all the commissions and funding intact. As you are aware, the Commissions' budgets have already been slashed over 60%.

Legislative leadership has recently made several appointments to the Commission. The Commission plans to advocate and provide a voice for this overlooked and underrepresented population to decrease disparities in health care and coordinate with state agencies to address areas that particularly affect Asian Pacific Americans such as hate crimes, immigration and English language instruction. Furthermore, as a commission, we will be a centralized resource for linking the community to housing, job training, the legal system, mental health and addiction services, and foster economic development, international trade, and economic cooperation with Asian countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Asian Pacific Americans represented approximately 3.2% of the total population in Connecticut, making Connecticut the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest growing Asian Pacific American population in the United States. The Asian population is projected to grow by 113 % between 2000 and 2025.

The Commission will also create partnerships with private and public organizations in the economic development area to create jobs. It will conduct education outreach to increase prevention strategies. On the state level, collection of health and mental health data of Asian American and Pacific Islanders has been limited and therefore knowledge of health needs have not been addressed. The Commission is necessary to serve as the liaison to the Asian community and advise the Governor, Legislature and state agencies on issues relating to health, social, education, economic development, civil rights and myriad of concerns and challenges confronting the Asian community.

Asian Pacific Americans have a "quiet, silent culture," and this unfortunately masks the desperate need for core essential services. The community was ecstatic to find out that it would finally have a voice in government; that it will have representation on other commissions and boards, such as the Commission on Health Equity. The Health Equity Commission consists of representatives from state government agencies, private and public universities and chairpersons of the Latino, Women, African-American and Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. Without the Asian American Pacific American Commission, this population will continue to be un-represented.

In closing, we thank the Committee's support and request to keep the appropriated funding intact, for the Commission to address the essential needs of this ethnically diverse and fastest growing population in Connecticut. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (860) 286-0144.

Sincerely,

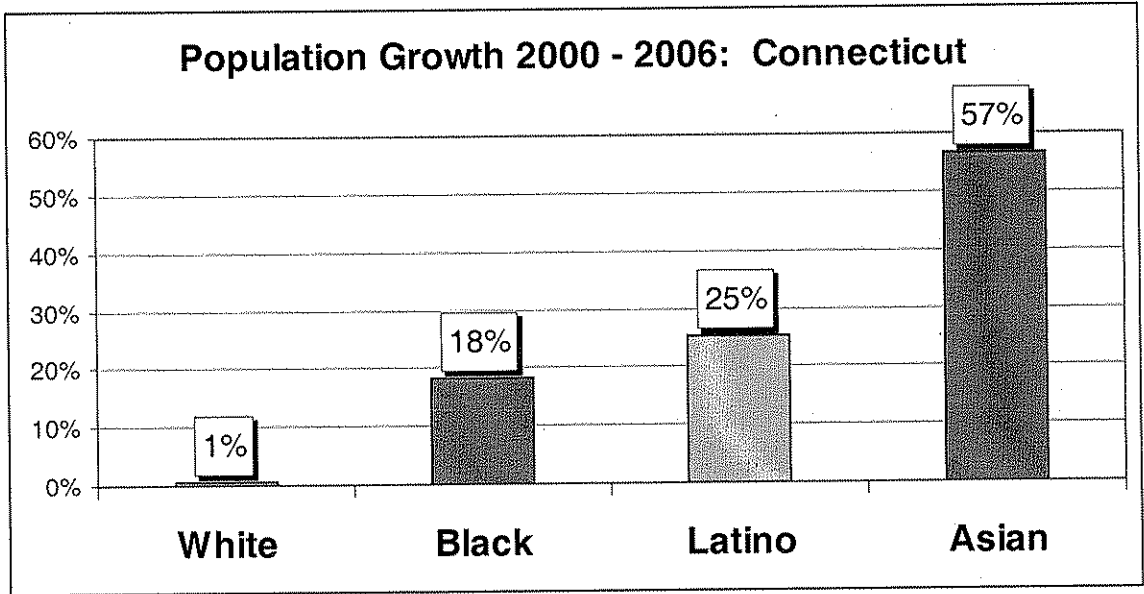
Asian Pacific American Coalition of Connecticut  
Asian Pacific Americans for Progress  
Association for Asian American Studies  
American Muslim Peace Initiative  
Association of Physicians of Pakistani descent of North America-CT Chapter  
CRT/Asian Family Services  
Chinese & American Cultural Assistance Association  
Chinese Culture Center  
Chinese Language School of Greater Hartford, Inc.  
Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Connecticut  
Connecticut Association of Philippine Physicians  
Connecticut Chinese Culture Association  
Connecticut Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association  
Connecticut Minority Supplier Development Council  
Filipino Women's' Club of Connecticut  
Glastonbury International Club  
Khmer Health Advocates  
Korean American Service Center  
Korean American Society of Connecticut  
Korean Language and Culture Education

Lao Association of Connecticut, Inc.  
National Association of Asian American Professionals of Connecticut (NAAAP-CT)  
National Federation of Filipino American Associations  
Nepali Student Association  
Organization of Chinese Americans, Fairfield County Chapter  
Pakistani American Association of Connecticut  
Pakistani American Public Affairs Committee  
SAPAC-Samahang Pilipino-Amerikano sa Connecticut  
SNEHA, Inc.  
South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut  
The Southeast Asian Coalition  
University of Connecticut Asian American Cultural Center  
University of Connecticut Asian Pacific American Law Students Association  
Volunteers in Service to Education in India, Inc. (VSEI)

**Figure 68. National Cancer Statistics for Asian American Men and Women**

- Cancer has been the leading cause of death for female Asian Americans since 1980. In fact, Asian American females are the first U.S. population to experience cancer as the leading cause of death.
- Cervical cancer is a significant health problem in Korean American women.
- Cervical cancer is the number one incident cancer in Vietnamese women, whereas breast cancer is the number one incident cancer for all other racial and ethnic groups.
- Only 48 percent of Filipino and 41 percent of Korean women receive Pap smear tests within the recommended time.
- Southeast Asian women have higher invasive cervical cancer incidence rates and lower Pap testing frequencies than most other ethnic groups in the United States.
- Young Asian women have lower participation in Pap tests and breast self-exams.
- Breast cancer incidence in Japanese American women is approaching that of U.S. Whites.
- Some studies indicate that approximately 79 percent of Asian-born Asian American women with breast cancer have greater proportion of tumors larger than 1 cm at diagnosis.
- Liver cancer, usually caused by exposure to the hepatitis B virus, disproportionately affects Asian Americans. This is the reason why the third leading cancer among Asian Americans is liver cancer.
- Approximately one-half of women who gave birth to hepatitis B-carrier infants in the United States were foreign-born Asian women.
- Vietnamese men have the highest rates of liver cancer for all racial/ethnic groups.
- The incidence of liver cancer in Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese populations are 1.7 to 11.3 times higher than rates among White Americans.
- Korean men experience the highest rate of stomach cancer of all racial/ethnic groups and a five-fold increased rate of stomach cancer over White American men.
- Lung cancer rates among Southeast Asians are 18 percent higher than among White Americans.
- Filipinos have the second poorest five-year survival rates for colon and rectal cancers of all U.S. ethnic groups (second to American Indians).
- Twenty-five percent of Filipino and 38 percent of Korean women receive adequate and timely colorectal cancer screening.

Source: Rev. Paul Lin, BTh, MDiv, Relationship Manager, Rocky Mountain Division, American Cancer Society



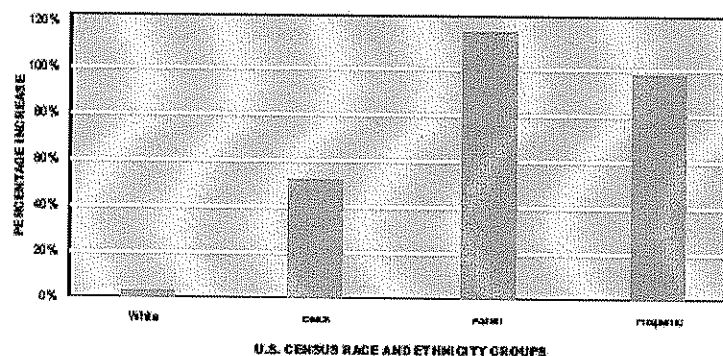
Source: US Census



Overall, Connecticut will experience only slight population growth between 2000 and 2030, from 3,405,565 to a projected 3,688,630 — 8.3 percent, compared to U.S. population growth of 29.2 percent over the same time span. Connecticut will decline in rank among states from 29th to 30th in overall population. As with much of the country, Connecticut's population will grow older, from 13.8 percent to 21.5 percent age 65 and over. This compares with 12.4 percent age 65 and over in the United States in 2000, and 19.7 percent in 2030.<sup>15</sup> Additionally, the race and ethnicity composition of the population will change. While neither the U.S. Census Bureau nor Connecticut state authorities have yet released race and ethnicity projections based on the U.S. Census 2000, the Census Bureau has released projections from the 1990s forward to 2025, shown in Figure 4.

Detailed population projections for cities and towns by race, ethnicity and age to 2050 are anticipated in 2007.<sup>16</sup>

**FIGURE 4: PROJECTED PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN CONNECTICUT POPULATION GROUPS BETWEEN 2000 AND 2025**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Projected 2025 Population, by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1995-2025*. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/totals/age/race.html>

The projections in Figure 4 indicate that Connecticut's Asian population will grow by more than 113 percent between 2000 and 2025, the Hispanic population by more than 99 percent, the black population by more than 50 percent, and the white population by only 2.5 percent. Further analysis shows that the nonwhite population is a younger population than the white population. As of 2000, 41.1 percent of the white population was under 35 years old, in contrast with the black population (59.3 percent under 35), the Asian population (55.2 percent under 35), and the Hispanic population (73.7 percent under 35).<sup>17</sup> Thus, if current trends continue, Connecticut will be increasingly characterized by an older white, and a younger black, Asian and Hispanic population. And the trend may be underestimated in the available data. While the overall undercount of population in Connecticut is small, younger black, Asian, Hispanic, and immigrant populations are more likely to be undercounted, according to several U.S. Census Bureau analyses.<sup>18</sup>